

ESCALANTE SILVER MINE - M/021/004

PERMITTING CHRONOLOGY

August 16, 1979 DOGM receives NOI from Ranchers Exploration & Development Corporation for a pilot program exploratory phase. Application did not involve full scale mining and milling program. Phase 1 program to drive 2 underground openings, one above and one below present water table. Purpose was to verify engineering and geologic estimates, conduct test stoping operations, obtain bulk samples for metallurgical testing and conduct moderate pumping program (11,000 gpm) from 5 vertical turbine pumps. Total of 12 surface acres to be impacted. (Reactivation of an existing underground operation operated sporadically). Combination of Fee, BLM and limited State leased lands involved. (ML-17763 and ML-17764)

Sept. 27, 1979 DOGM issues tentative approval to commence pilot underground mining operations. (Sec 2, T36S, R17W)

Nov. 1, 1979 Notice of tentative approval published.

Nov. 15, 1979 Letter from SHPO addressed to Environmental Coordinating Committee indicating belief the area to be mined has the potential to yield cultural resources. Recommend that a survey to be conducted.

Nov. 21, 1979 DOGM notified Rancher's by letter of SHPO's recommendation for cultural resource survey.

Dec. 3, 1979 Formal protest received by DOGM against Rancher's proposed mine development. (52 local farmers signed the protest).

Jan. 17, 1980 DOGM sends Ranchers a reclamation surety estimate (2 yr. timeframe) for the Pilot Program (\$13,765).

Jan. 23, 1980 Board hearing held to resolve issue of public protest against Rancher's operation. Board approves Pilot Project request. Detailed hydrologic studies to be conducted and submitted as part of large scale mine development NOI.

Jan. 28, 1980 DOGM receives reclamation surety contract from Ranchers for \$13,765.

Feb. 14, 1980 DOGM issues final approval for Pilot Project.

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March 7, 1980	State Health Construction Permit issued (BWPC) for mine discharge to Shoal Creek.
March 24, 1980	DOGM receives copy of formal protest directed to State Attorney General objecting to DOGM final approval of Rancher's Pilot Project. Hans Q. Chamberlain requests opinion as to authority of State Engineer vs. DOGM.
March 25, 1980	DOGM staff meet with Escalante Water Users Association farmers to hear their concerns regarding Rancher's dewatering activities. Farmers want replacement guarantee.
July 2, 1980	State Health Department, Bureau of Air Quality, Notice of Intent to approve construction published.
July 9, 1980	DOGM receives new NOI from Ranchers Exploration and Development Corporation for the full scale Escalante Silver Mine.
August 6, 1980	Air Quality Approval Order issued.
August 20, 1980	DOGM presents executive summary to the Board recommending tentative approval. (\$119,574.).
August 20, 1980	BWPC issues amended construction permit to cover design plans for the tailings facilities and ponds.
August 22, 1980	DOGM issues conditional tentative approval with stipulations. (9 stips.)
Sept. 8, 1980	DOGM receives Rancher's response to tentative approval conditions.
Sept. 12, 1980	DOGM receives "Irrevocable Letter of Credit No. 3282".
Sept. 15, 1980	DOGM receives letter from Hans Q. Chamberlain withdrawing the Escalante Valley Water Users September 4, 1980 formal protest. Request no September 26, 1988 hearing.

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Sept. 26, 1980	Board Hearing held to hear objections to final approval of Rancher's NOI.
Oct. 22, 1980	DOGM sends deficiency response to Rancher's September 8, 1980 response.
Oct. 31, 1980	DOGM receives Rancher's response and commitment to tentative approval steps.
Jan. 14, 1981	Water Rights Division conditionally approves Tailings Dam designs.
March 11, 1981	DOGM issues final approval for Escalante Silver Mine.
July 3, 1981	Albuquerque National Bank sends Notice of renewal of I.L.C. for another year.
Feb. 8, 1982	DOGM receives Annual Report from REDCO Silver, Inc., a subsidiary of Rancher's Exploration.
August 17, 1982	DOGM receives annual renewal letter on bond for Albuquerque National Bank.
Feb. 8, 1983	DOGM receives Annual Report for 1982.
March 21, 1983	Expansion of Tailings Dam application received.
April 6, 1983	Division of Water Rights approval of Tailings Dam Expansion.
April 14, 1983	DOGM approves Tailings Dam Expansion. Requests notification as to size and locations of borrow areas prior to construction and a description of runoff and sediment control from borrow areas.
June 14, 1983	Ranchers's response to DOGM April 14, 1983 request received.
Sept. 2, 1983	DOGM receives letter from Sun West Bank extending I.L.C. for another year.
Sept. 2, 1983	DOGM letter to Rancher's based on August 3, 1983 field inspection. Requested additional information on water monitoring, pumping records, piezometric contour maps, description of aquifer recharge system, updated surface facilities map and property ownership map, topsoil stockpiling, erosion protection and volume in storage, and new acreage figures and effect on reclamation bond.

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Nov. 2, 1983	DOGM receives Rancher's written response to September 2, 1983 request for information.
July 26, 1984	Effective merger date of REDCO Silver, Inc., (REDCO) into Hecla Mining Company. REDCO became wholly-owned subsidiary of Hecla.
Dec. 31, 1984	Memo to file regarding status of permit transfer to Hecla Mining Company.
Jan. 7, 1985	Permit Transfer form sent to Hecla for transfer of Escalante Silver Mine from REDCO to Hecla.
Jan. 17, 1985	DOGM receives response from Hecla regarding permit transfer. Provided a copy of corporate merger documentation in lieu of permit transfer form.
Feb. 5, 1985	DOGM memorandum to Barbara Roberts, Assistant Attorney General regarding explanation for not requiring a formal permit transfer. Attached was an amendment to the Sun West Bank, I.L.O.C. to name Hecla in place of REDCO Silver, Inc.
Feb. 7, 1985	Assistant Attorney General O.K.'s February 5th explanation of corporate acquisition by Hecla.
Sept. 13, 1985	Date of new reclamation surety I.L.O.C. # ANB0851 in the name of Hecla Mining Company.
Feb. 3, 1986	DOGM letter to REDCO Silver, Inc. requesting a date for staff to perform a field visit to finalize permitting of updated MRP information.
April 28, 1986	DOGM memorandum to file detailing results of DOGM April 8th mine site inspection.
Jan. 7, 1988	DOGM receives Annual Report from Hecla Mining Company for FY 1987.
Nov. 7, 1988	DOGM receives letter from Hecla requesting DOGM field inspection to discuss closure and reclamation of mine site.

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Nov. 30, 1988	DOGM performs onsite inspection and discusses Hecla's plans for mine site reclamation.
Dec. 5, 1988	DOGM receives written description of Hecla's reclamation details for some of the mine facilities to be performed in December 1988.
Dec. 9, 1988	DOGM approves of Hecla's reclamation proposal with minor design changes.

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